

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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Michael A. Jones,

Case No. 2:24-cv-00309-GMN-NJK

Petitioner,

**Order to Show Cause**

v.

Gabriella Najera, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Michael A. Jones has filed a *pro se* 28 U.S.C. § 2254 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus challenging his conviction in Eighth Judicial District Court (Clark County), Nevada, pursuant to a guilty plea, of Second-Degree Murder. (ECF No. 2.) It appears from the Petition that it was submitted outside the applicable limitations period and may be subject to dismissal as untimely. The Court will give Jones an opportunity to show cause and file such proof as he may have to demonstrate that the Petition is timely.

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) imposes a one-year statute of limitations on the filing of Federal Habeas Corpus Petitions. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d). The one-year time limitation can run from the date on which a Petitioner's Judgment became final by conclusion of direct review, or the expiration of the time for seeking direct review. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(A); *Shelby v. Bartlett*, 391 F.3d 1061, 1062 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) (holding that § 2244's one-year limitation period applies to all Habeas Petitions filed by persons in "custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court," 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1), even if the Petition challenges an administrative decision rather

1 than a state court judgment). Further, a properly filed petition for state postconviction  
2 relief can toll the period of limitations. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2).

3 Here, Jones sought authorization from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to file a  
4 second or successive Petition. (See ECF Nos. 1, 2.) The court of appeals denied the  
5 application for leave to file a second or successive Petition as unnecessary and  
6 transferred the Petition to this Court with a deemed-filed date of July 25, 2023. (ECF  
7 No. 1.)


8 Even with the July 2023 file date, it appears that Jones's Petition challenging his  
9 September 2006 Judgment of Conviction may be untimely by about 15 years. Jones  
10 argues that under Nevada law he was not permitted to raise the claim of ineffective  
11 assistance of plea counsel at sentencing until the Nevada Supreme Court decision in  
12 *Gonzales v. State*, 492 P.3d 556 (Nev. 2021). Pursuant to NRS 34.810(1)(a) a  
13 petitioner may only challenge a conviction by guilty plea on the bases that the plea was  
14 not voluntarily or knowingly entered or the plea was entered without effective assistance  
15 of counsel. The state appellate court held in *Gonzales* that that statute does not bar a  
16 petitioner from raising a claim in state postconviction proceedings that he received  
17 ineffective assistance of counsel at sentencing. *Id.* at 562. Jones claims that *Gonzales*  
18 offered a new legal basis for him to challenge his plea counsel's assistance at  
19 sentencing as ineffective. But even assuming for the purpose of this Order, without  
20 deciding, that his claims were unavailable before that decision, Jones did not file this  
21 Petition until July 2023—almost two years to the day from the date the *Gonzales*  
22 decision was handed down. Jones will be given an opportunity to show that this Petition  
23 is in fact timely or that he is entitled to equitable tolling of the one-year limitations period.  
24 For equitable tolling, he must demonstrate “(1) that he has been pursuing his rights  
25 diligently, and that (2) some extraordinary circumstance stood in his way’ and prevented  
26 timely filing.” *Holland v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 631, 649 (2009); see also *Pace v.*  
27 *DiGuglielmo*, 544 U.S. 408, 418 (2005).

1 It is therefore ordered that Petitioner has **30 days** from the entry of this Order to  
2 show cause and file such proof he may have to demonstrate that the Petition for Writ of  
3 Habeas Corpus was timely filed within the one-year time limitation or that he is entitled  
4 to equitable tolling.

5 It is further ordered that Petitioner set forth a complete and accurate history, with  
6 dates, of any relevant state habeas proceedings presented to the state district court and  
7 the Nevada Supreme Court or Nevada Court of Appeals, including direct appeal and  
8 state habeas petitions. All assertions of fact made by Jones in response to this Show-  
9 Cause Order must be detailed, must be specific as to time and place, and must be  
10 supported by competent evidence. Jones should attach copies of all materials upon  
11 which he bases his argument that his Petition should not be dismissed as untimely.

12 It is further ordered that if Petitioner fails to respond to this Order or fails to  
13 demonstrate that the Petition was timely filed or that he is entitled to equitable tolling the  
14 Court will dismiss the Petition.

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17 DATED: 3 May 2024.

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21 GLORIA M. NAVARRO  
22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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